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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-eighth session
10-21 March 2014
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mohamed **Elbahi** (Sudan)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters on 15 March 2013 and from 10 to 21 March 2014. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to __).

2. The session was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia).

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 10 March, a statement was made by the Chair, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), following his election.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made statements.

6. At the 5th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission heard statements by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and by the Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

7. At the 6th meeting, on 12 March, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria) addressed the Commission.

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B. Attendance

8. The session was attended by representatives of ___ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013 and 10 March 2014, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions:[1]

Chair:
Libran Cabactulan (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs:
Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador)
Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia)
Christine Loew (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair and Rapporteur:
Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan)

D. Agenda and organization of work

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March 2014, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2014/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;
      (ii) Review theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the

[1] The following officers were elected for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission only: Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia), at the 1st meeting, on 15 March 2013; and Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), at the 2nd meeting, on 10 March 2014.

promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: women's access to productive resources;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session.

11. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2014/1/Add.1.

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

12. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions:

Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
Bruno Santos de Oliveira (Brazil)
Noa Furman (Israel)
Galina Khvan (Russian Federation)
Bernadette Ntaba Kadyamusuma (Zimbabwe)

F. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-eighth session is available from: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014/official-documents.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-eighth session
10-21 March 2014
Agenda item 6
Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation: annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

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Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General:

- Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme
- Situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women

Report of UN-Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of the relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation: letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-eighth session
10-21 March 2014
Agenda item 3 (c)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Azerbaijan,* Belarus and Georgia: draft resolution

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[7]

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
2 Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
3 General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
4 See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
5 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
6 Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
7 Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

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and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,[8]

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,[9] as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Recognizing also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[10] as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[11] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[12] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and welcoming the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and General Assembly decision 64/530 on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, as well as its resolutions 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379 (2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003, 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict, and 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014 on kidnapping for ransom and hostage taking by terrorists,

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[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[9] Resolutions 39/2, 40/1, 41/1, 42/2, 43/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46/1, 48/1, 50/1, 52/1, 54/3 and 56/1.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[11] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting that women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, that continue to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and cause suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Being cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflict and to ensure accountability as regards implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to the conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions, and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in conformity with international humanitarian law and in accordance with international human rights standards, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery and trafficking in women and children, and deplores their consequences;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and, to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites*, in this regard, States to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area, inter alia, by providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice in accordance with international law those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need for addressing the issue of release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as a part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information, including improved analysis and dissemination of sex and age disaggregated data, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Highlights* the importance of the rehabilitation of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in these situations, and urges the concerned States to take all practically possible measures to this end;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in the context of the present resolution, the continued wide dissemination of information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

16. *Invites* the special rapporteurs, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

18. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixtieth session.

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Commission on the Status of Women
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10-21 March 2014
Agenda item 3 (c)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and United States of America: draft resolution

Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind that natural disasters affect human lives and living conditions thereafter, and have a more direct and adverse impact on women and girls, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and that natural disasters have different impacts on men and women, owing to social exclusion gender inequality, gender stereotypes, different family responsibilities, discrimination against women and poverty, as well as the lack of equal access to adequate services, information, economic opportunities, entitlements, justice and safety,

Reaffirming the commitments regarding women and girls affected by natural disasters in the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and reaffirming also that the outcomes stressed the need to incorporate a gender perspective into disaster risk reduction, response and recovery strategies,

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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Noting that, during a natural disaster, pregnant or lactating women and adolescent girls, who constitute an average of 18 to 20 per cent of the female population, are more vulnerable to disasters because of their limited physical mobility and their increased needs for food and water and for access to reproductive health care and safe birthing facilities,

Recognizing that natural disasters can increase the likelihood of rape and sexual exploitation, domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and complications regarding sexual and reproductive health, including for pregnant women, who face heightened risks from interrupted access to sexual and reproductive health care,

Noting that natural disasters can lead to widespread and prolonged displacement, which increases the vulnerability, in particular of women and girls, to gender-based violence and to negative coping strategies, creates barriers to their ability to access education, employment and health-care and other crucial services, and separates them from support networks,

Recalling its resolution 56/2 of 9 March 2012,[3] and mindful of the continuing need to further enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2002,[4] Commission on the Status of Women resolution 49/5 of 11 March 2005,[5] as well as Commission resolution 55/1 of 4 March 2011 entitled "Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies",[6] the Hyogo Declaration[7] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[8] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 18 to 22 January 2005, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[9] as well as all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 68/102 and 68/103 of 13 December 2013 and 68/211 of 20 December 2013, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/6 of 17 July 2013,

Noting various processes leading up to 2015 and 2016, especially the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai City, Japan, in March 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2016,

Welcoming the response and longer-term recovery efforts of the affected countries as well as the continued support and assistance given by the international community in the relief and recovery efforts for natural disasters in all parts of the

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[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* (E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16), chap. I, sect. D.

[4] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 7* (E/2002/27-E/CN.6/2002/13), chap. I, sect. A.

[5] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[6] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27-E/CN.6/2011/12), chap. I, sect. D.

[7] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[8] Ibid., resolution 2.

[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

world, including the deadly typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) that struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013 and the devastating earthquake that struck eastern Japan on 11 March 2011, and other recent natural disasters, including those addressed in recent humanitarian appeals, while stressing the importance of further efforts in these responses, including in gender-responsive disaster management,

Recognizing that incorporating a gender perspective into disaster response and longer-term recovery planning and implementation will cut recovery time, lead to greater efficiency and equity in the short- and longer-term recovery efforts and strengthen the resilience of entire communities,

Recognizing also that protection from gender-based violence in the context of natural disasters, including through early programme prevention and response, can reduce morbidity and mortality,

Stressing the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory participation and inclusion of women and girls, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, through a people-centred and holistic approach that fully respects human rights, in order to build an inclusive society, supported by a social bond among people through community-based approaches, which promotes gender equality, the empowerment of women, social and economic inclusion and development, strengthens the resilience of communities and reduces social and economic vulnerabilities to disasters,

1. *Recognizes* that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the need to enhance women's access, capacities and opportunities to effectively participate in prevention and preparedness efforts and in response to disasters;

2. *Also recognizes* that natural disasters and the ability to recover from them can affect men and women differently, and that a gender-responsive approach, including gender-sensitive needs assessments, during post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, has the potential to address underlying social issues that create vulnerability to disasters and prolong the time needed for economic and social reintegration and productivity;

3. *Further recognizes* that, in addition to focusing on physical infrastructure during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, social and economic transformation in the areas of housing, income generation and agriculture and the informal sector, and health care, including psychosocial counselling, should also be taken into consideration in order to adequately address gender priorities;

4. *Urges* Governments and, where appropriate, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders, to:

(a) Review national policies, strategies and plans and take action to integrate a gender perspective in policies, planning and funding for disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, considering the different impacts that natural disasters have on women and men;

(b) Facilitate and increase women's access to information and education, including in the area of science and technology, including information and communications technology, and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills

and opportunities for participation and leadership in environmental decisions, including during natural disasters;

(c) Ensure equal opportunities for the leadership and participation of women and, as appropriate, girls, in decision-making, including with regard to the allocation of resources at all levels regarding disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(d) Strengthen the capacities, awareness and cooperation of relevant authorities and institutions at all levels to apply a gender-responsive approach to disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(e) Ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(f) Make the utmost efforts to secure equal access to disaster relief assistance for women, girls, boys and men, and provide disaster response and support for recovery and development that is fully responsive to the needs and respects the views and enjoyment of all human rights of women and girls, with special attention paid to the needs of pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, families with infants or older persons, single-headed households and persons with disabilities and widows, such as in the context of the provision of food and supplies, water and sanitation, the set-up and management of shelter, safety and security, and the provision of physical, psychological and emergency health care, including for sexual and reproductive health, and counselling services for survivors of gender-based violence, while encouraging the involvement of women professionals and gender balance among field workers;

(g) Require implementing partners to utilize a gender marker system and to report on associated gender commitments throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

(h) Ensure that, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, special attention is given to the prevention of various forms of gender-based exploitation and abuse, including the risk of trafficking and the particular vulnerability of girls, unaccompanied children and orphans, and women and children with disabilities;

(i) Also ensure, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, the provision of protection, care and support to the victims of gender-based violence and, as appropriate, the provision of legal, medical, psychosocial and other relevant services for survivors of gender-based violence to aid, inter alia, in the investigation and prosecution of cases of sexual and gender-based violence, taking into account survivors' needs in order to avoid their re-victimization;

(j) Design, implement and evaluate gender-responsive economic relief and longer-term recovery projects, including vocational and technical skills training measures, in order to help ensure equal economic opportunities for men and women, paying attention to eliminating obstacles to women's rapid integration or reintegration into the formal employment sector, owing to their role in the social and economic process, and taking into account the rural and urban migration that natural disasters may provoke;

(k) Promote and involve women in designing income-generating activities and employment opportunities for women affected by natural disasters, particularly

rural women, including by supporting community-based and home-based businesses through such instruments as local procurement of food and services, the establishment of necessary social services, and access to market, credit, cash transfers, social safety nets and other financial services, involving women in their design and taking into account the additional burden on women's time in the post-disaster phase for tasks such as securing supplies of food, water and fuel and caring for children whose schools have closed;

(l) Ensure equal access for women and men to, and their equal participation in, natural hazard early warning systems, promote disaster risk reduction planning at the national, subnational and community levels, taking into account the specific needs, views and all human rights of women, girls, boys and men, and raise public awareness and provide training at all levels on gender-responsive approaches to disaster risk reduction, including in the areas of science and technology;

(m) Ensure equal access to and use of information, training and formal and informal education on disaster risk reduction for women and girls, in order to enhance their voices and participation in processes relating to disaster risk reduction;

(n) Systematically collect, analyse and utilize demographic and socioeconomic data and information disaggregated by sex, age and disability, among other factors, for the purpose of contextual social and gender analysis and for identifying and addressing the differing coping strategies, needs, capacities, knowledge and priorities and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men, continue to develop gender indicators and analyse gender differences, including through gender-responsive needs assessment, participatory planning processes and methodologies, and integrate this information into disaster risk reduction and management policies and programmes in order to ensure programme and policy effectiveness and reduce the loss of life and livelihoods;

(o) Document and assess disaster risk reduction activities and disaster and recovery responses from a gender perspective, and widely disseminate, nationally, regionally and internationally, information on good practices, lessons learned and tools, including technologies in support of disaster risk reduction, in order to promote and ensure their integration into disaster risk reduction planning;

(p) Recognize and further promote the role of civil society, including community-based organizations, women's and adolescent girls' organizations and volunteers, in disaster risk reduction planning and management and in promoting the building of an inclusive, disaster-resilient society that ensures women's full participation;

(q) Recognize also the important role played by women professionals and volunteers, inter alia, in meeting the needs of women and girls, and further encourage their participation in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(r) Forge constructive partnerships among all stakeholders, including Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant actors, such as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in order to strengthen a gender perspective in all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

5. *Commends* those donors who use a gender marker system in their funding decisions, and encourages Governments and, where appropriate, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders, to use such a system;

6. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

7. *Requests* all relevant United Nations entities, according to their mandates, to ensure that a gender perspective continues to be mainstreamed into all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery and to report systematically on progress towards such mainstreaming under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

8. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming gender and disability perspectives in disaster risk management prior to disasters, in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, to various processes, including the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to promote the strategic goals for risk reduction and resilience-building in the framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015, including indicators for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, Member States and other stakeholders to continue to promote the inclusion of a gender perspective in their activities, international negotiation processes and consultations as they relate to natural disasters, especially in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Requests* Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders, to share their gender perspective in the preparatory processes towards the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in 2016, on the basis of their experiences and lessons learned from past humanitarian action, thus mainstreaming the gender perspective in the themes of the summit.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-eighth session
10-21 March 2014
Agenda item 3 (c)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Malawi:* draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[6] the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,[8] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

1 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

2 General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

3 *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

4 General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

5 General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

6 General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

7 See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

8 See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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Millennium Development Goals,[9] the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals[10] and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[11]

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, people living with HIV, political and community leaders, parliaments, regional and subregional organizations, communities, families, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, workforces, the business sector, civil society and the media, including the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to end the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Reaffirming also the need to eradicate poverty, which can contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection and aggravate the impact of the epidemic by depleting resources and incomes, thereby contributing to inadequate food and nutrition, which leads to poor treatment outcomes, and to impoverishment owing to loss of income and increased health expenditures, and endangers the survival of present and future generations,

Noting with concern that violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, are among the contributory factors to the spread of HIV, and further noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women",

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities face increased vulnerability to HIV as a result of, inter alia, legal, social and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Concerned also that the global HIV and AIDS epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and reinforces gender inequalities, that the majority of new HIV infections in young people aged 15 to 19 years occur among girls, and also concerned that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV, and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

Concerned further that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV than men and boys, especially at an early age, and that this vulnerability is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other negative cultural factors, violence against women, girls and adolescents, child, early and forced marriage, premature and coerced sexual

[9] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[10] See General Assembly resolution 68/13.

[11] See General Assembly resolution 66/288.

relations, sexual exploitation including commercial sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices,

Noting with alarm the rise in the incidence of HIV among people who inject drugs and that, despite continuing increased efforts by all relevant stakeholders, the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to, among other things, public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular women and girls and their families, and recognizing that much more needs to be done to effectively combat the world drug problem,

Deeply concerned that there are women, including young women, living with HIV who would like to space or limit pregnancy but are currently not using an effective method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and a broad range of contraceptive methods,

Noting with concern the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by sex workers, especially women sex workers, who are 13.5 times more likely to be living with HIV than other women worldwide, and reiterates the importance of addressing gender-based violence faced by sex workers and ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as part of national responses to HIV and AIDS,

Concerned that HIV infection rates are higher among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Concerned also that women and young women have unequal access to health resources, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that the HIV and AIDS epidemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, is often aggravated by poverty, which requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV, and that increased access to information, prevention programmes and treatment and elimination of HIV-related stigma, discrimination and violence are all essential to efforts towards ending HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that, despite the significant progress made in addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic, many countries have been unable to fulfil their pledges

to achieve their commitments made in the 2001 and 2006 declarations on HIV/AIDS, including those related to women and girls, set to be achieved by 2010, and emphasizing in this regard the need to continue efforts to achieve these commitments and to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2015 goals outlined in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[6] the Beijing Platform for Action[12] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] towards achieving the vision of an AIDS-free world;

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, and in this regard looks forward to the review of the progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development framework;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and empowering women, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses and to address HIV in the national gender response by responding to the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the epidemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, including through access to education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, social protection programmes, civil registration and other nationality documentation and the right to property and inheritance, as well as to strengthen the economic independence of women, including through employment and income generation policies and strategies, decent work, political participation and decision-making at all levels, and

[12] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic;

6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that national HIV strategies comprehensively target women and girls at higher risk of HIV infection, and to take measures to ensure that HIV services are accessible and affordable to them;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

8. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to scale up efforts to address the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and continuous provision of anti-retroviral treatment;

9. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, and the need to design gender-based policies aimed at social and economic equality including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

11. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through HIV prevention education that promotes abstinence and fidelity, delay of sexual debut, reduction of sexual partners, correct and consistent use of condoms and equality between men and women within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

12. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by women and girls who provide care and/or economic support for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school or employment, by increasing the provision of resources, support and facilities to the survivors and caregivers, in particular children, especially in women and child-headed households, and older persons, as well as to facilitate the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

13. *Urges* Governments to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households, many of whom have been orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, are respected and that the heads of such households have full enjoyment of all the rights of the child, and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school;

14. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by children and young persons, especially girls, who may be forced into child labour, including the worst forms of child labour, as a result of death or illness of family members or caregivers, and to protect these children and young persons from violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and labour exploitation;

15. *Urges* Governments to take measures to integrate, inter alia, family and community-based approaches in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, treatment, care and support to women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

16. *Also urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, including male and female condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and, where applicable, pre-exposure prophylaxis, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

17. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Governments to optimize the use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[13] specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, to increase access to treatment where applicable, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as undertaken in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

18. *Urges* Governments to strengthen, implement and enforce legal, policy, administrative and other measures for preventing, eliminating and addressing the causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, domestic violence, violence at work, verbal and physical abuse, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that linkages between violence against women and HIV are addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

19. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the transparent and effective enforcement of laws and access to redress mechanisms to protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage and marital rape;

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[13] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

20. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to anti-retroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[1]

21. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical commodities and supplies for women and girls for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and maternal health and family planning, and to collect data on treatment disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, marital status and continuity of care;

22. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons without discrimination, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security, education programmes, including HIV prevention programmes, and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

23. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through strengthening national policies and legislation and challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard, and emphasizes the need to develop and implement policies and programmes designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

24. *Calls upon* all Governments, the international donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk, in the HIV response and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS;

25. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

26. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, including those for tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health-care services such as family planning, maternal health, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including those causing infertility and cervical cancer, and encourages Governments to strive towards universal health coverage, meeting the needs of women and girls living with HIV;

27. *Encourages* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to intensify their support to empower women and girls, and engage men and boys, and prevent HIV infection through measures to ensure promotion and effective implementation of combination prevention and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls;

28. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, that includes sex- and age-disaggregated indicators, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

29. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the epidemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, marital status and geographical location, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS, and encourages Member States to report on the relevant indicators for the global AIDS response progress reporting system;

30. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality;

31. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

32. *Welcomes* the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive and takes note of the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child initiative, as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to reduction of the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment programmes integrated with family planning and maternal and child health programmes designed to eliminate mother-to-child/vertical transmission of HIV and reduce HIV-related maternal mortality by 50 per cent by 2015, to encourage men to participate with women in such programmes, address barriers faced by women and girls in accessing such programmes and provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

33. *Expresses concern* that the majority of new HIV infections in women occur in marriage or long-term relationships and encourages the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

34. *Stresses* the importance of Governments in ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sex education and services necessary for behavioural change so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infections and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

35. *Urges* Governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to take measures in and through workplaces to prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and alleviate its impact by ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, including ensuring actions to prevent and prohibit violence, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, in line with International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 200 concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work, and facilitate provision of current information on HIV and AIDS through employment programmes and services and in vocational training, especially for youth;

36. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities and to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including the use of female condoms, microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research as well as to ensure that gender-equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

37. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation and leadership in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment for combating stigmatization and discrimination;

38. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a pivotal mechanism for achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015, and urges further contributions to sustain the Global Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

39. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

40. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly with respect to women and young girls, including efforts to provide affordable anti-retroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, strengthening of health systems and training of medical personnel, including reliable distribution and delivery systems, implementation of a strong generic drug policy, bulk purchasing, negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices, appropriate financing systems, and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, particularly in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular in those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean and in regions and countries where HIV incidence is increasing;

42. *Recommends* that a bold vision for addressing the HIV epidemic, including the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

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Bolivia (Plurinational State of):*, draft resolution**

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/2014/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2013/17 of 24 July 2013 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern also about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and escalating settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement of civilians and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from Israeli military operations, including those in November 2012, and the continuing

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[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the implementation of the August 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[9] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbours, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[10] and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;[11]

7. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[10] S/2003/529, annex.

[11] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.